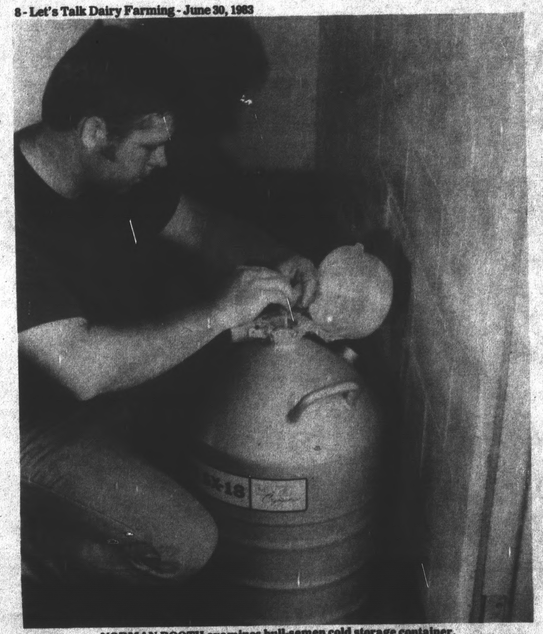

NORMAN BOOTH examines bull-semen cold storage container.

Norman Booth's one-man operation is working well

Norman Booth has done what few people have done: he has established a successful dairy almost singlehanded in less than 15 years.

Booth went into the dairy business full time in 1971. He converted his operation to Grade A in 1975.

He and his brother "started messing with cows" when Booth was in high school. His brother's interests changed, however, and Norman took over the responsibility of keeping the cattle.

For a three-year period while Norman was in the Army, his father Roy looked after the family's animals.

Since then, Norman has pretty much operated the dairy farm by himself, with occasional help from hired labor and his family.

"My father and I built the milking parlor," Booth says. "It took us 18 months, but that saved a lot of money."

Roy Booth "loved to raise tobacco," according to Norman. But he prefers dairy cattle.

Booth currently has 104 head of cattle, and is milking

(Continued on page 14)

Lewis farm producing milk for over 40 years

R. Clark Lewis, his son Ricky and nephew Eddie Stratton have a herd of 150 animals, 60 of which are currently being milked.

The farm, which is the Lewis homeplace, has been producing milk for 40 years. It was a tobacco farm before Clark's father went into the dairy business.

The Lewis herd produces approximately 4,500 pounds of milk every two days.

Ricky Lewis, who has been helping on the dairy all his life, handles the artificial insemination chores, as well as other duties around the farm.

Clark says that he has 90 acres of corn planted this year. He also has 50 acres of alfalfa and oat hay. One problem he has experienced this year has been Johnson grass, which like chickweed and other troubles o m e natural grasses, tends to smother the hay and considerably reduce a field's productivity.

The Johnsongrass was detected early enough to eliminate through spraying, and the year's hay crop looks pretty good, according to Clark.

The Lewises, whose farm is located near Oakville off of Road 615, also raise some beef cattle for the market.

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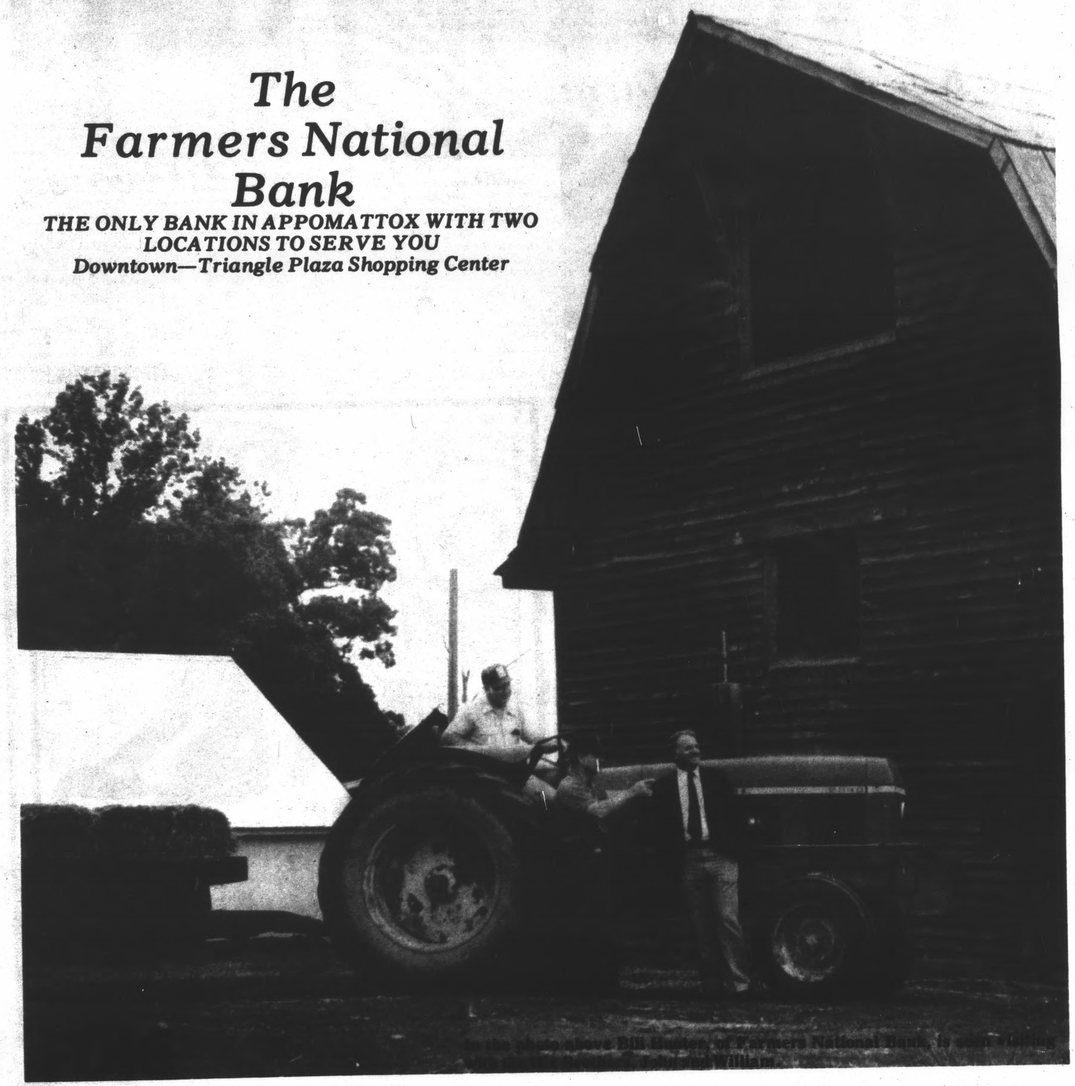
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